



February , 2009

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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Your Opinion Matters

One of the most important ongoing issues in Lucas is whether or not the City should allow access to sewer for non-residential properties within its boundaries and its extra-territorial jurisdiction areas. Periodically the topic is reviewed by the City Council. It has been a while since the Council's last review of the issue, and our general agreement is that it is time to take another look at this topic. As our city continues to grow, we must stay on top of every issue that will impact how our city looks in the future.

It is critical that every citizen understands the challenges that any decision, pro or con, on sewer access will bring to our city. We want your input, and feel strongly that we must have open, honest dialogue that will help us all to examine the positives or negatives of any decision that might be made regarding sewer access.

On Monday, February 2, at 7:00 PM there will be a Town Hall Meeting at the City Hall Annex specifically to discuss the feasibility of allowing access to sewer for non-residential properties over which the City has jurisdiction. All Council members will be present to answer your questions in an open dialogue format. The Council and I strongly urge you to attend and participate in this important meeting.

On Thursday, February 5, the issue will again be discussed by Council during the regular City Council Meeting at the City Annex.

You will also have an opportunity to ask questions about this issue, or any other at the Coffee with Council event on Saturday, February 7 at the City Annex.

This is your City, and it is important that you understand the issues and have a voice in this City's future. Please come to the Town Hall meeting with your questions and concerns. We value your opinions.

Get your New Year off and running in the right direction



There will be an organizational meeting to discuss the formation of the Lovejoy Running Club, Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at 7:00pm in the Lovejoy High School Lecture Hall. The Running Club will be open to anyone interested

in the Lovejoy area interested in walking/jogging/running and meeting others for group walks/runs weekly. If you would like further information please contact Greg Christensen, greg_christensen@lovejoyisd.net.

Important February Meetings



Before proceeding with annexation of the designated commercial areas (per our Comprehensive Plan), namely the 2 commercial areas bordering Angel Parkway and at 1378 and Parker Road, the question of these areas receiving sewer services must be

resolved. The owners of these properties are willing to voluntarily annex according to our Comprehensive Plan. The Council will be providing information and asking for feedback from the citizens on the sewer issue before proceeding with any negotiations.

Mayor, Council and staff have spent numerous hours to find answers to questions asked previously. Discussions with neighboring cities about an agreement to receive sewer services from them have shown that this is not an economically feasible option for Lucas. Discussions with the area's sewer provider, North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD), have revealed that the city of Lucas has two options:

1. Designate the two areas by very specific geographical description (metes and bounds) with sewer allowable in only these limited areas and only for commercial use; or
2. Develop a waste water master plan defining sewer for the entire city.

NTMWD has indicated they are willing to work with the city, one time, change our current master waste water (sewer) plan and maintain the existing sewer to Lovejoy High School. Further requests would likely be denied, leaving only the whole city option available in the future.

The Lucas Home Rule Charter requires two (2) Public Hearings prior to any action taken by Council. But the Council wants to provide information and gather feedback from the community before going to the Public Hearing stage. The Town Hall meeting on Monday February 2nd, the Coffee with Council on Saturday February 7th, and the Regular City Council meeting on Thursday February 5th have been scheduled to address this very important issue.

We encourage you to attend the meetings to become fully informed on the options and consequences of each option, and have an opportunity to ask questions and provide input. If you are unable to attend any of the meetings, the email addresses of your elected officials are listed on the front of this newsletter.



Free Coffee & Donuts!

Drop by the City Annex building on Saturday, February 7th between 8 AM – 11 AM and enjoy a FREE hot cup of coffee and a donut. Why? It's our quarterly "Coffee with Council" event.

"What I want is to get done what the people desire to have done, and the question for me is how to find that out exactly." Abraham Lincoln

Your Lucas City Council hosts this event to provide an informal way for the citizens of Lucas to meet with a couple of city council members. At a city council meeting there is an opportunity for citizens to make comments to the Council, but by law the Council is not able to discuss the citizens' comment nor can they take action on a citizens' recommendation if that particular item is not on the current agenda. Unlike a city council meeting that must follow a published agenda the Coffee With Council event hosted by only a couple of your city council members is open to discussion of any topic. While the council members attending this event can not by themselves take action to change ordinances or make resolutions they can, if necessary, get your issue placed on the city council agenda for consideration by the entire council. The attending council members can also familiarize you with actions the council may be currently engaged in to address those concerns. Additionally if you are happy with your city councils' decisions and direction we want to know that too!

You do not need to stand in front of the entire council and all those attending a city council meeting to express yourself. Just come enjoy a cup of coffee, a donut, and friendly conversation. It's also an opportunity to meet and get to know other citizens of Lucas.

Your city council members WILL affect you whether you voted for them or not. Your city council has a direct impact on your city taxes, city ordinances, and how your city is run. They set policy, approve budgets and determine bond packages. When your city council members know what the citizens desire to have done it can lead to an improvement in the quality of services delivered, and the quality of democratic debate and dialogue surrounding decisions about the future of the city.

We welcome your attendance and look forward to sharing coffee, donuts and dialog with you. See you then!

Kathleen Peele, Lucas City Council Member

Council Workshop Actions

Authorized the City Manager to enter into a professional services agreement with BW2 Engineering for the 2008-2009 capital water improvement projects for Brockdale Road, Brookhaven, and Southview, not to exceed \$205,800.

Accepted the audit report for the Fiscal Year 2007 – 2008 prepared by Pingleton, Howard & Company, PC.

Authorized the City Manager to contact Southwest Securities to ensure that the bonds could be paid with no penalties. \$288,000 to be used with a portion of the amount being funded out of the debt service fund.

Appointed Dennis Cassatt, Karen Campbell and Jayne Hoey to the Advisory Group.

Council approved a request for TxDot conduct a traffic survey on FM1378.

Authorized the Mayor, City Manager, and legal counsel to draft a Development Agreement with the Paxton family for annexation of the property located at FM2551 and Estates Parkway. The agreement to be brought back to Council.

Authorized the Mayor, City Manager, and legal counsel to draft a Development Agreement with the Hunt Property for annexation of the property located on Parker Road. The agreement to be brought back to Council.

Approved Resolution # R-2009-01-00326 of the City of Lucas suspending the effective date of Coserv Gas LTD's requested rate changes to permit the city time to study the request and to establish reasonable rates; approving cooperation with other cities within the Coserv system to hire legal and consulting services and to negotiate with the company and direct any necessary litigation; requiring reimbursement of cities' rate case expenses; authorizing intervention in the proceeding at the railroad commission; requiring notice of this resolution to the company.

City of Lucas' General Election



City of Lucas' City Council will soon call for a general election to be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009. The purpose of the election will be to elect three (3) City Councilmembers at-large and one (1) mayor. Two (2) City Councilmembers at-large, Seat 1 and Seat 2, will be a two (2) year term; one (1) City Councilmember at-large, Seat 3, will be for a three (3) year term; and the Mayor will be for a three (3) year term.

According to Section 3.03 of the Home Rule Charter, no person shall be a candidate for the office of Mayor or Councilmember unless such candidate is a qualified voter of the City and shall have resided in the City for not less than one (1) year preceding the day of election and should not be in arrears in the payment of any City taxes.

Candidate packets are available from the City Secretary beginning Monday, January 19th. An application stating a declaration of candidacy can be filed with the City Secretary or a duly appointed designee, beginning February 7, 2009. The last day to file for a place on the ballot is March 9, 2009, 5 p.m.

If you have any questions regarding the May 9, 2009 General Election please feel free to contact the City Secretary, Kathy Wingo, at 972-727-8999 or email your questions to kwingo@lucastexas.us.

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS NEAR WATER LINE REPAIRS:



When the City Public Works Department crew makes repairs to water line breaks, the repair hole is filled back for safety but not completely dressed up, due to the soil being wet. The crew keeps a list of areas that need dress-up work done. When the area has dried out, they will come back and smooth up the area. The resident's patience and understanding is appreciated.

MEETING SCHEDULE

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 IN THE CITY ANNEX UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

TOWN HALL MEETING MONDAY, FEB 2	PLANNING & ZONING THURSDAY, FEB. 12
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR THURSDAY, FEB 5	CITY HALL CLOSED MONDAY, FEB. 16 PRESIDENT'S DAY
COFFEE WITH COUNCIL SATURDAY, FEB 7 8AM-11AM	CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP THURSDAY, FEB 19
VOLUNTEER RECEPTION MONDAY, FEB 9	MUNICIPAL COURT WEDNESDAY, FEB 25, 4PM

CITY OF LUCAS
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